

00701

1962/10/24

134
TELCON
BUNDY
Ball

10/24/62, 11:30 p.m.

392

WII-246/1

Bali - Have you talked to the Pres. recently?

Bundy - Not lately. I talked to Bob just after he talked to him, and I understand this process is to give a challenge and if we get an acceptable answer, let her go.

Ball - That's right. Now the President is concerned about this.

Bundy - I'm just going over to talk to him. Can I call you back?

Ball - Let me fill you in before you go. What we tentatively talked about was this. That we might try to get Stevenson rather than giving the ~~xxxxxx~~ reply to U Thant which we had talked about.

Bundy - Yes, which we did not deliver.

Ball - Not yet anyway. to try to get Thant tonight to send a message to K saying that he is concerned that there will be a confrontation at sea in the morning or tomorrow. that this could be a situation which could escalate; that he, therefore, ask K to hold his ships away from Cuba until there is a chance for a discussion as to the modalities of the negotiation.

Bundy - Stevenson would go to Thant to do this tonight?

Ball - Yes.

Bundy - Have you suggested that to the President?

Ball - The President and I talked about this, and I told the President I would ~~explore~~ explore it with Stevenson.

Bundy - Have you done so?

Ball - No yet. I just checked ~~xxx~~ it out with Rusk, and he is agreeable.

Bundy - I think it is worth trying. On that basis however, we ought to let Bucharest alone through the night.

Ball - Oh, we would. As a matter we weren't going to do it tonight.

Bundy - No, they are planning a challenge.

Ball - At what hour?

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CWII-748/2

Bundy - & At 0200

Ball - Let me call Bob

Bundy - Let's wait til you get your, I'll talk to the President and I'll call you back. The instructions at sea are to intercept and report for orders.

Ball - All right. Do you want in the meantime for me to get hold of Stevenson?

Bundy - Try Stevenson and I'll go over and talk to the Pres. and call you back.

Ball - OK

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